

Message Text

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LONDON 15634

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FOR VEST, PM

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, IAEA, UK

SUBJECT: JOHN THOMSON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS ACTIVITIES

REF: (A) STATE 232509 (B) IAEA VIENNA 8486

SUMMARY. JOHN THOMSON TOLD US OCTOBER 8 THAT HE IS GOING TO PARIS OCTOBER 14 TO TRY TO PERSUADE RELUCTANT FRENCH TO AGREE ON PPECISE LANGUAGE ON FIRST/SECOND APPROACH PROBLEM WHICH COULD BE SUBSEQUENTLY SOLD TO CANADIANS AND U.S. WHEN THOMSON VISITS OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON LATER IN WEEK. CRUDELY PUT, THOMSON IS STRIVING FOR FRENCH AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE SECOND APPROACH WITH PROMISE OF CONSIDERATION OF FULL-FUEL CYCLE APPROACH IN 12-15 MONTHS IF UK CAN DELIVER ON ITS IAEA SCHEME INVOLVING NEW SAFEGUARDS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH THOMSON ON ANOTHER SUBJECT OCTOBER 8, HE BRIEFED US ON HIS UP-COMING ACTIVITIES ON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS FRONT. HE SHOWED US MESSAGES SETTING UP HIS VISIT NEXT WEEK TO PARIS, OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON. HE HOPES TO GET GOF AGREEMENT ON A SLIGHTLY IMPROVED SECOND APPROAAH AND A COMMITMENT FROM FRENCH TO MOVE TO A FULL-FUEL CYCLE SAFEGUARD SYSTEM IN 12-15 MONTHS IF BRITISH ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR EFFORT IN IAEA TO CREATE

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NEW SAFEGUARD SYSTEM BASED ON INFCIRC 153 BUT WITHOUT

FEATURES OBJECTIONABLE TO FRENCH.

2. THOMSON SAID FRENCH WERE INITIALLY RELUCTANT TO LET HIM COME TO PARIS AND TRIED TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON MEETING WHICH MIGHT PREVENT THOMSON FROM PRESSING HIS INITIATIVE. THOMSON BELIEVES HE MANAGED TO AVOID SUCH CONDITIONS, BUT FRENCH MAY THINK OTHERWISE. HE BELIEVES HE HAS A 50/50 CHANCE OF GETTING FRENCH AGREEMENT -- SOMETHING HE FELT HE HAD ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IN BILATERAL BEFORE LAST SUPPLIERS GROUP MEETING. THOMSON OBSERVED THAT CANADIAN INTRANSIGENCE CAUSED FRENCH TO TAKE HARDER, LESS POSITIVE LINE AT SUPPLIERS MEETING ITSELF. HE SAID INFO IN THIS PARAGRAPH IS MOST SENSITIVE AND SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD IN WASHINGTON -- HENCE THE NODIS CAPTION.

3. OTTAWA. PORTION OF TRIP PROBABLY WOULD OCCUR OCTOBER 16. OBJECT WOULD BE TO SELL AGREED UK/FRENCH LANGUAGE TO CANADIANS AND TO EXPLAIN WHAT UK IS DOING IN IAEA. THOMSON HOPES THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE CANADIANS THAT THE FRENCH WILL NOT IMPROVE THEIR POSITION UNDER PRESSURE FROM OTHER SUPPLIERS; FURTHER CANADIAN INTRANSIGENCE WILL MERELY CAUSE BREAK-UP OF GROUP.

4. IN WASHINGTON, THOMSON HOPES SECURE U.S. CONCURRENCE TO WHAT WILL THEN BE UK/GOF/GOC PAPER. IN ADDITION HE WOULD (A) DISAUSSTACTICS FOR NEXT SUPPLIERS MEETING INCLUDING ASSIGNING LOBBYING TASKS FOR COORDINATION WITH

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FRG, JAPAN AND USSR AND (B) EXPLAIN UK IAEA INITIATIVE TO U.S. OFFICIALS. UK SAFEGUARDS EXPERT FRED BROWN WOULD BE PREPARED TO SIT DOWN WITH U.S. EXPERTS AND TO MARK UP INFCIRC 153 TO ACCOMPLISH UK GOALS.

5. WE NOTED U.S. CONCERNS EXPRESSED REF. (A). THOMSON SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE RISKS IN UK PLAN. BUT WE ARE GOING FOR "THE BIG APPLE" IN THIS CASE; IT IS WORTH TAKING SOME RISKS. THOMSON SEEMED CONFIDENT U.S. WOULD GO ALONG ONCE UK PLAN COULD BE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL. AS EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT HE NOTED KRATZER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT UK REFERENCE TO 12 MONTHS PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION. KRATZER SEEMED TO THINK UK WAS SUGGESTING MORATORIUM ON SAFEGUARDS FOR 12 MONTHS. UK SUGGESTION IS, THOMSON EMPHASIZED, FOR 12 MONTHS OF SECOND APPROACH SAFEGUARDS.

6. AGAIN ON THE MOST SENSITIVE BASIS, THOMSON SAID UK MIGHT AS ADDED INCENTIVE TO FRENCH, HELP THEM IN THEIR PENDING NUCLEAR DEAL WITH PAKISTAN BY DEMONSTRATING UK SUPPORT TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS. THOMSON NOTED THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TASK IF DETAILS OF FRG-BRAZIL DEAL COME OUT AND SAFEGUARDQ PROVE TO BE LESS STRICT THAN FRANCE IS INSISTING ON IN PAKISTAN ARRANGEMENT.

7. THOMSON SAID SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND MINISTER HATTERSLEY ARE NOW PERSONALLY AWARE OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS EFFORT. BOTH SUPPORT UK INITIATIVES. WE CAN EXPECT
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MORE REFERENCES TO THIS SUBJECT IN THEIR SPEECHES. THOMSON ACKNOWLEDGES THAT CALLAGHAN DID NOT GET ALL FACTS CORRECT IN HIS UNGA SPEECH BUT SECRETARY IS RIGHT ON CONCEPT. FUTURE SPEECHES WILL BE BETTER.

8. UK TEAM WOULD INCLUDE THOMSON AND WILMSHURST ONLY WITH BROWN JOINING FOR WASHINGTON. THOMSON HOPES SPEND ONE EXTRA DAY IN WASHINGTON DISCUSSING OTHER MATTERS AFTER U.S./UK DISCUSSION ON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS MATTERS IS FINISHED.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, NUCLEAR FUELS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON15634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA 19811010
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850033-2117
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751062/aaaaccyr.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 232509, 75 IAEA VIENNA 8486
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOHN TOMSON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS ACTIVITIES
TAGS: PARM, UK, FR, CA, US, IAEA, (THOMSON, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006